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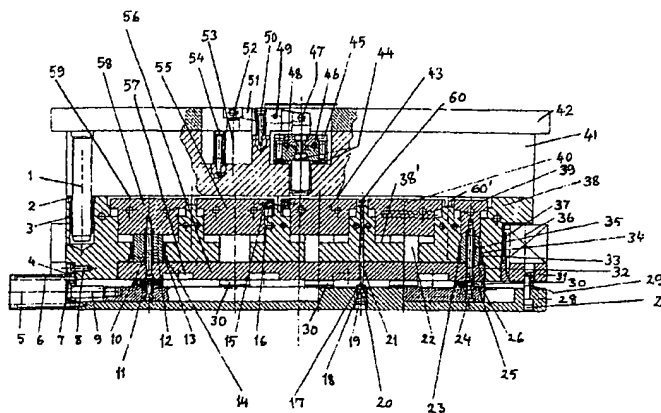
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MANUFACTURING PANEL BODIES OF PLASTIC MATERIAL, AND USE THEREOF



(57) Abstract: A method and an apparatus for manufacturing panel bodies of plastic material, wherein the plastic material is injected into a mould cavity (59) of a mould for the filtering thereof. After the injection of the plastic material, the cavity is caused to expand from a first volume (V1) to a second, larger volume (V2), whilst the plastic material expands, the plastic material having added thereto a drive means, e.g., a foaming agent or a blowing agent. The moulded panel body is then removed from the cavity of the mould. Prior to the injection of the plastic material, reinforcing material (60) may optionally be placed in the mould in recessed portions (60') of the first volume of the mould cavity. This reinforcing material may be held up at some points by pushers (21) projecting up through the respective bottoms of said recessed portions (60') until the recessed portions have been filled with plastic material to surround the reinforcing material. The pushers are withdrawn from the recessed portions and from support of the reinforcing material as the mould cavity (59) expands to its second volume.

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